



THE MILITARY AND HOSPITALER ORDER OF ST. LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM

Grand Master: H.E. Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón, Marquis de Almazán

Grand Bailiwick of Switzerland

Colloquium Lazarensis in the Abbey of Kappel, 19th June 2010

The event with the topic "The Holy Grail" took place in the former, carefully renovated and redesigned Cistercian abbey with gothic church. The location of this convent, a pre-alpine landscape, surrounded by woods, meadows and fields, was the perfect frame for the debate on the fascinating Grail-theme.



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Members and guests gathered on a rather autumnal and rainy spring day in the refectory of the abbey, where cordial and stimulant conversations took place.



The following presentations were lectured by Psych. Don Mirko Paul Slongo, OIJ, and Rev'd ThDr. Don Petr Jan Vins, AChLJ.



Individual psychologist Mirko P. Slongo brought forward his thoughts on mystery and myth from a depth psychological view in his exciting presentation "Perzeval - the story of the Grail".



These thoughts were brilliantly complemented from an ecclesiastic-historical perspective by the lecture of Rev'd ThDr. Petr Jan Vins.

In the following animated conversations and intense exchange of ideas happened during the aperitif in the cloister hall.



The following dinner took place in the convent's Eschenbach-parlour, where the Grand Bailiffs, Chev. Don Sergio Zorrilla Debón de Ribera and Chev. Don Luca Anteo Ramella cordially welcomed the guests.



This exquisite banquet was supplemented by the dinner-speech of Don Sergio who stressed the following thoughts:

We are not Dame or Chevalier by birthright, nobility, class, profession, academic title or acquired merits, but because we answered the call of duty to act ethically in our everyday life.

Because humanity as respect for the human dignity is not given by nature nor is hereditary, but is a cultural achievement. This means, that humanity must worked out again and again and must be culturally anchored.

The members of the Grand Bailiwick of Switzerland actively sustain the ideals of Christian chivalry by continuously seeking to attain this spiritual and ethical perfection.

By their personal example in their everyday life they try to exemplify this refinement in order to bring forward the good in the world.

This exemplified humanity can also be underscored with charity, but not only; because justice has always to precede charity.

LES CLASSIQUES FRANÇAIS DU MOYEN AGE
Collection fondée par MARIO ROQUES
publiée sous la direction de FÉLIX LECOY

LES ROMANS
DE
CHRÉTIEN DE TROYES

ÉDITÉS D'APRÈS LA COPIE DE GUIOT
(Bibl. nat. fr. 794)

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LE CONTE DU GRAAL
(PERCEVAL)

PUBLIÉ PAR
FÉLIX LECOY
TOME II



PARIS
LIBRAIRIE HONORÉ CHAMPION, ÉDITEUR
7, QUAI MALAQUAIS (VI^e)

1981

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The Grand Bailiff closed his speech with a quotation from the work of the Grail poet Chrétien de Troyes and raised the glass to the health of the Grandmaster, H.E. Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón, Marquis of Almazán, wishing that everyone of the attendees will find his very personal Grail on the difficult but rewarding way to self-awareness.

The atmospheric and remarkable event ended appropriately having sweets, coffee and animated conversations in pleasant company.

